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## Nixon The Critic

Although he lost the election last fall, Richard M. Nixon is now trying to quarterback the administration team in Washington, and he is doing a poor job of it.

It is natural that the former Vice President, as titular head of the Republican party, should be critical of the administration and its policies from time to time. Every American enjoys that privilege and we must agree that no administration can boast of perfection in its thinking, practices and decisions.

Mr. Nixon, however, has been grossly inconsistent in his comments on the Cuban problem. In fact, he has done too much talking already about a hazard in the hemisphere that is far too threatening to be given any political exploitation.

Let's be more specific about Mr. Nixon's hot and cold comments. Several days ago he charged that President Kennedy had made a big blunder in the way he had handled the Cuban situation.

"Putting it bluntly, we should not start things unless we can finish them," he said in a political speech in Chicago that touched on various domestic and foreign issues.

On April 21, in a New York speech honoring Greek Premier Caramanlis, Mr. Nixon said he would support President Kennedy on the Cuban problem "even to commitment to American armed forces to stop the building up of the Communist beachhead in Cuba."

Whether the Central Intelligence Agency made a grave mistake in the way it participated in the Cuban invasion planning is a question that will be settled by the new council created by the President to investigate. No doubt there were some errors, but the national problem at the moment is not to recriminate but to look ahead and establish a course for action before the Soviets actually establish themselves firmly in the western hemisphere.

Republicans and Democrats in high places understand the urgency of the times and believe that the unfavorable outlook demands united thinking. Three former Presidents, Messrs. Eisenhower, Truman and Hoover, have lined themselves behind President Kennedy's efforts. As well, Republican Governor Rockefeller of New York is also "on the team."

The President has forthrightly taken full responsibility for the failure in Cuba. That acceptance has eliminated bickering and argument, but it does not help solve the problem.

Thus, the President has asked for the assistance and co-operation of men experienced in public and international affairs, including some who served in high office during the Eisenhower administration.

He is entitled to that support, and no worthy purpose will be served by Mr. Nixon if he persists in following a program of carping criticism. There is too much at stake for traffic in politics.